



DOE Renew America's Schools (BIL 40541)

Fall 2023



The Challenge for K-12 Schools



There are **100,000 public K-12 schools**.

Over 50% require major upgrades, earning U.S. schools a **D+** in the 2021 infrastructure report card



There is an **\$85 billion** annual shortfall in maintenance and capital funding needed for school facilities



Capital funding is **37%** lower in **high poverty districts**

This increases further in high-poverty districts serving **rural** or **minority communities**.



Energy consumption is the **second highest operational expense** for schools.

Sources: [2021 State of Our Schools Report](#), [ASCE Infrastructure Report Card](#), [GAO study](#)

Advocacy – DOE Renew America’s School Program

June 2019

Senator Cortez-Masto (NV) and Representative Loeb sack (IA) introduce Renew America’s School Act

Legislation to provide crucial support to America’s schools to make critical infrastructure upgrades that improve energy efficiency and reduce costs

June 2019

Introduced into the House

Did not receive a vote.

March 2021

Reintroduced in Senate

The Schools Act laid the groundwork for the future program and highlighted the need for funding resources for schools. Then in August 2021 the content was added to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

November 2021

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) / Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passes

DOE Renew America’s Schools Program created. (\$500M to K-12 Public Schools)

Renew America's Schools (BIL Provision 40541)

New competitive grant program for energy improvements at public school facilities

Funding

\$500M (\$100M over five years, FY22-FY26), until expended, through competitive grants.



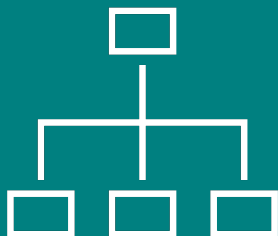
Qualifying Energy Improvements

Improvements, repairs, or renovations that reduce energy costs or lead to improved teacher and student health and achieve energy savings.



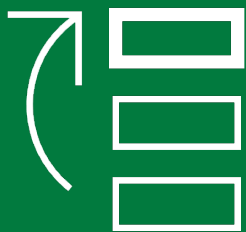
Eligible Entities

Consortia of 1 local educational agency (LEA) and one or more schools, non-profits, for-profits, or community partners.



Prioritization

Schools with improvement funding needs, high free and reduced-price lunch percentage or rural locale, and leverage private sector funding through performance contracting.



Renew America's Schools – Goals



Facilitate
substantial
additional
investment

Prioritize schools
with high needs

Minimize
administrative
burden

Build enduring
capacity in LEAs
to maximize
impact equitably

Renew America's Schools – Grant Overview (FY22-23)

Total Amount to be Awarded	Approximately \$80,000,000*
Award Amounts	\$500,000 to \$15,000,000
Types of Funding Agreements	Cooperative Agreements
Anticipated Period of Performance	24 to 60 months
Cost Share Requirement	At least 5% of Total Project Costs
Two Topic Areas	1 – High-Impact Energy Efficiency and Health Improvements 2 - Innovative Energy Technology Packages

**First FOA released
November 29, 2022**

**Concept Papers due
January 26, 2023**

**Full Applications due
April 21, 2023**

**Selections Announced
June 29, 2023**

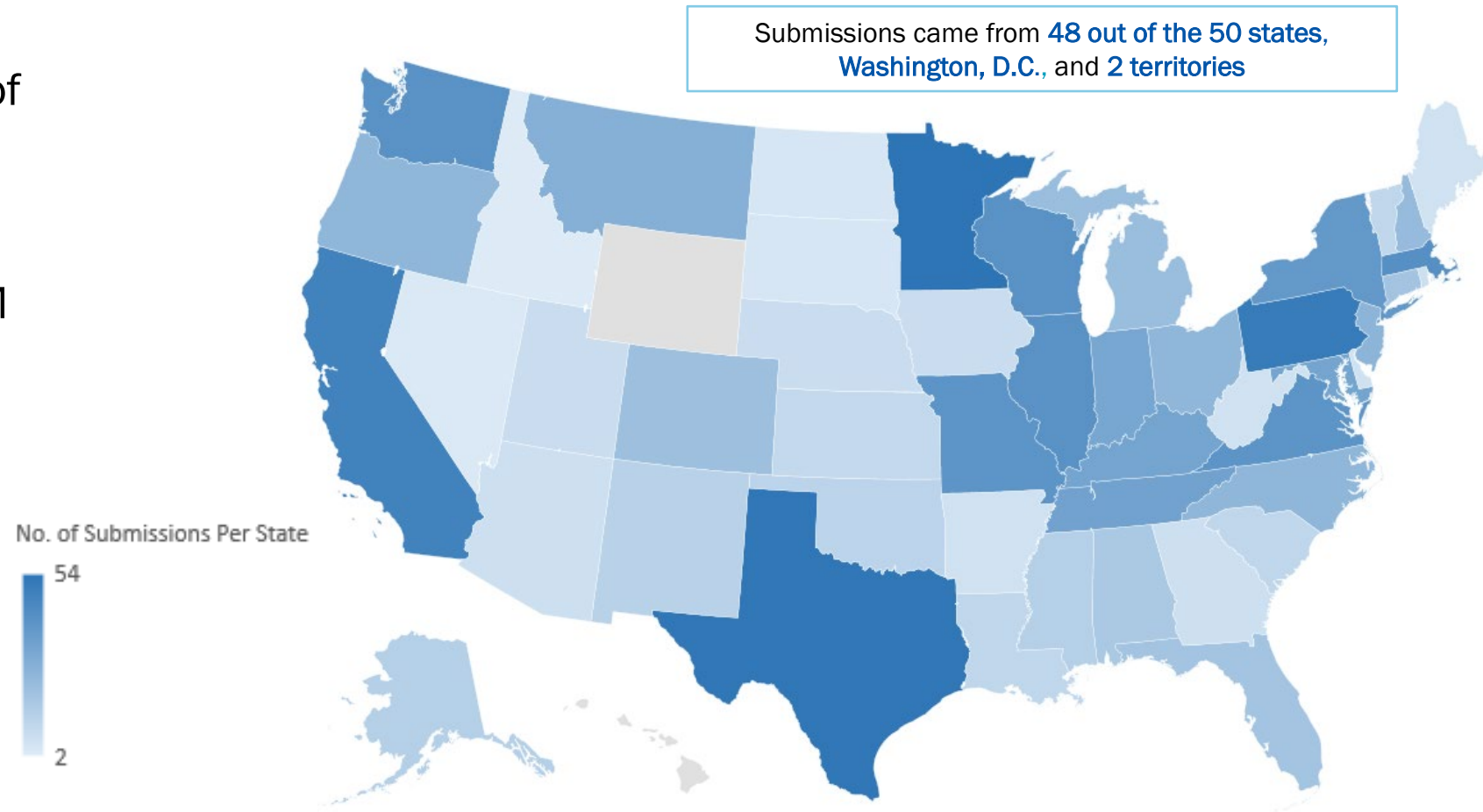
*As initially announced

Concept Paper Highlights

At FOA close, on January 26, 2023, DOE had received **1,053** applications.

Total federal funds requested is **\$5.5B** with total project costs of **\$7B** (including cost share).

This is **70x** more than the \$80M planned for this FOA.



Full Application Highlights



48% included schools
located in a **DAC**



95% included located
Title 1 schools



45% included schools
in a **Rural Locale**



Applications averaged **65%**
for **Free & Reduced-
Price Lunch** percentage

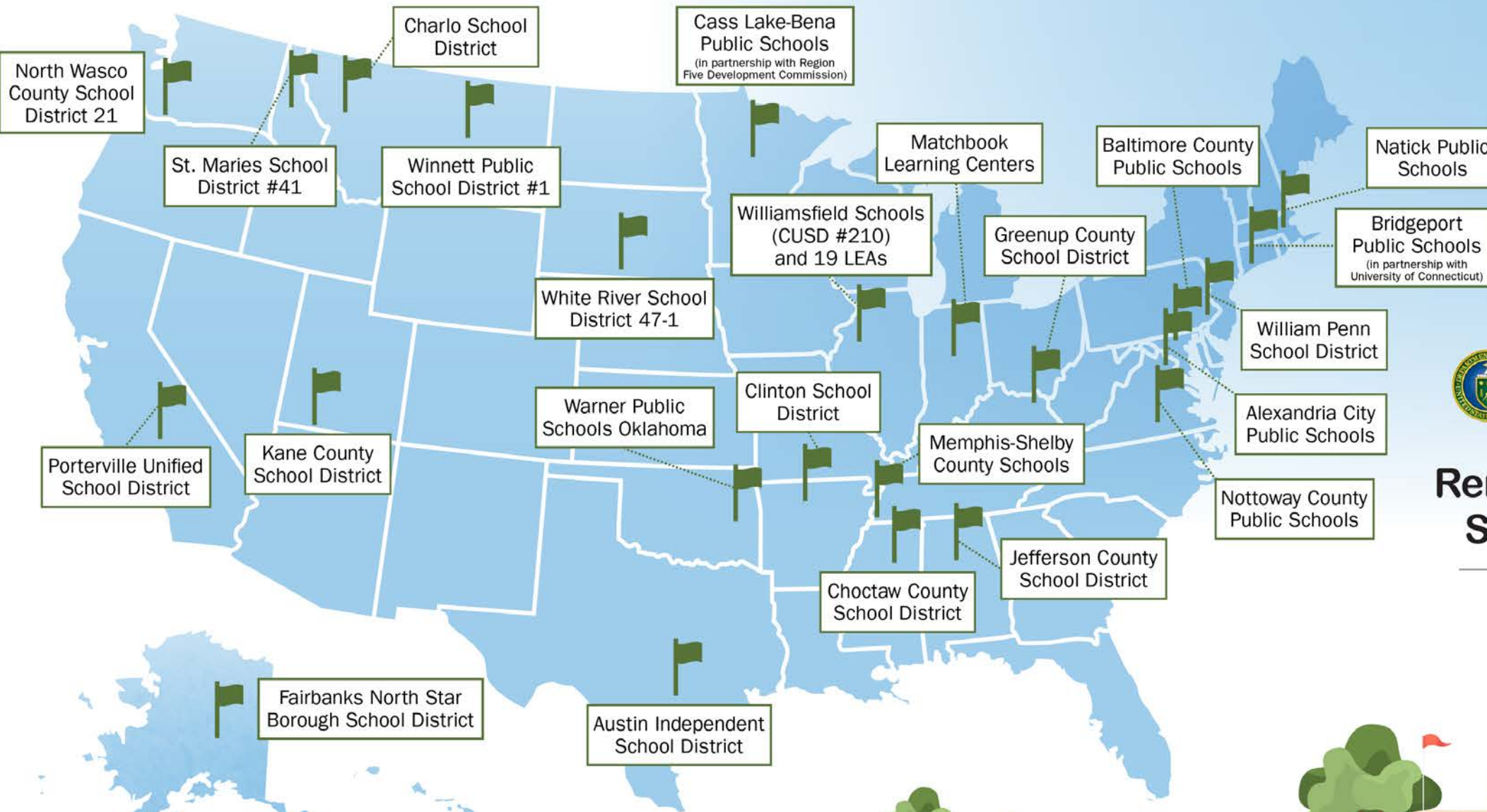
DOE
announced
\$178M



SCEP
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

Renew America's Schools Grant

**2022-2023
Selectees**



Selectee (24) Highlights



15* Selectees have schools located in a **DAC**, including **5** in **Tribal areas**



The Selectees have a combined **Free & Reduced-Price** Lunch average of **70%**

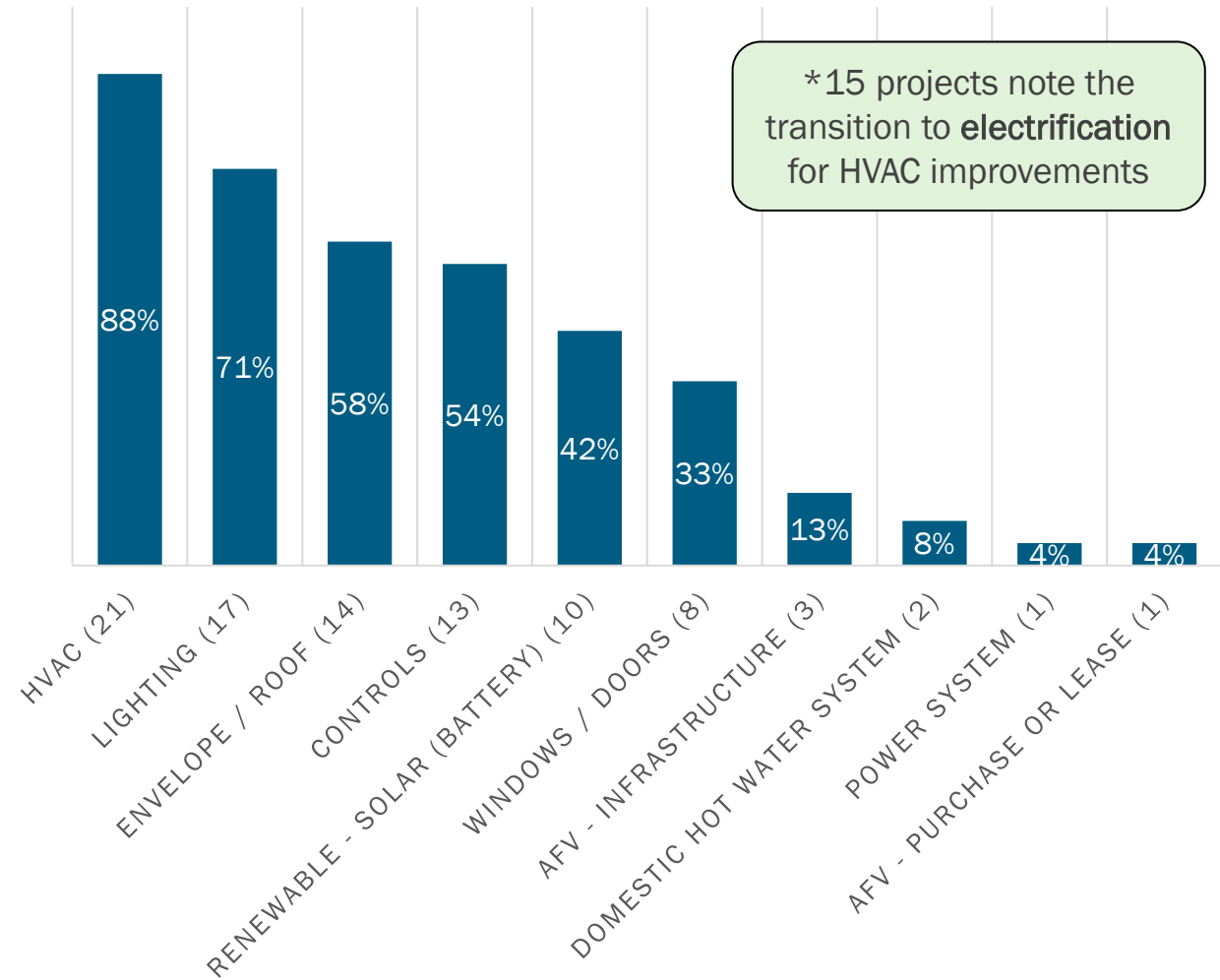


14 Selectees are in a **Rural Locale**



23 Selectees are **Title 1** schools

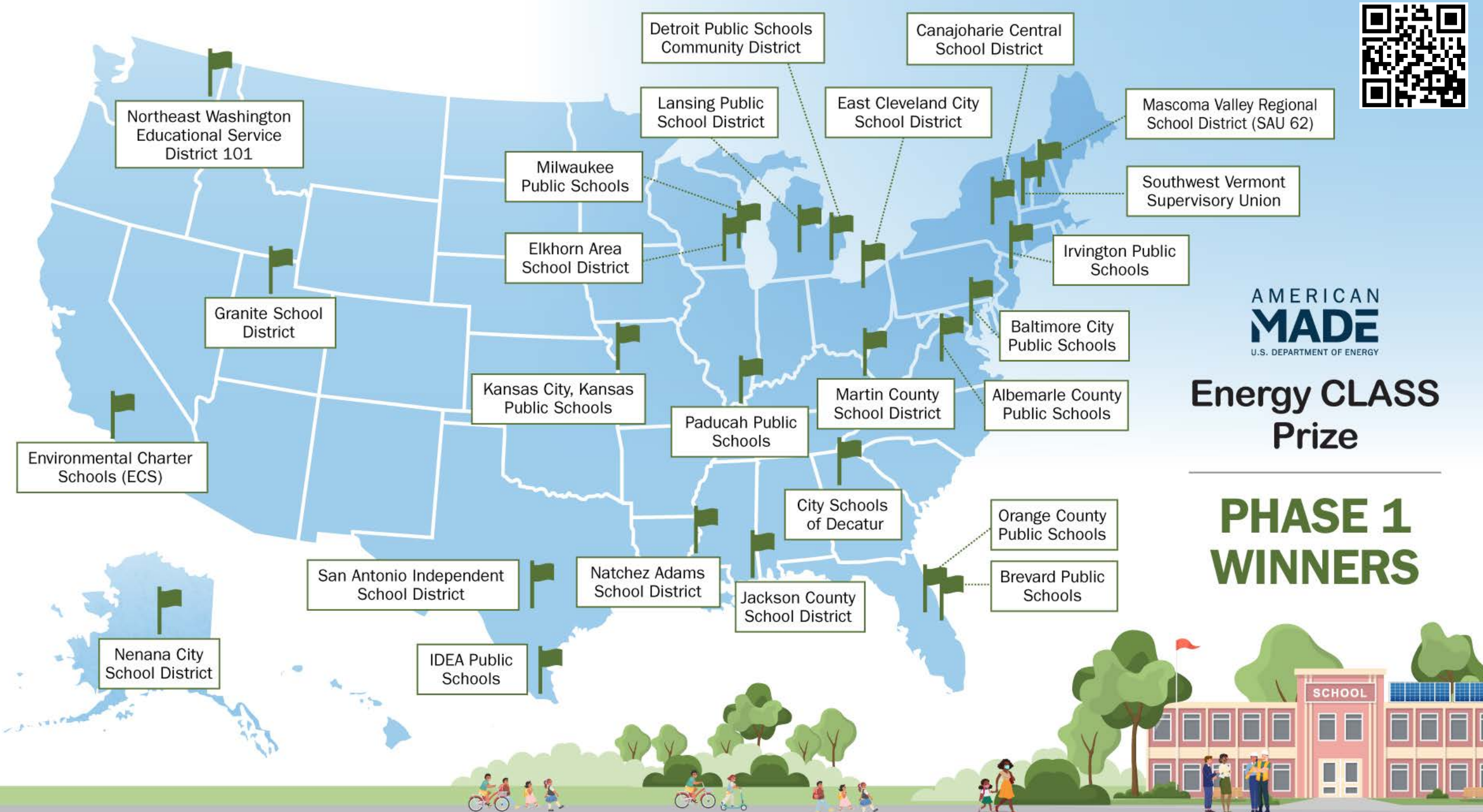
REQUESTED IMPROVEMENTS





Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools (CLASS) Prize

- Created in response to **overwhelming need for staff and training** around energy management in schools.
- Technical assistance programming **meant to fill a gap and complement** Renew America's Schools FOA funding for capital improvements.
- Seeks to build capacity within local educational agencies (LEAs) to **identify and implement energy and health improvements** in their facilities and classrooms.
- Provides resources to staff and **trains personnel on operations and maintenance, strategic energy management, project development, funding pathways, and related topics** to deepen bandwidth and knowledge for advancing the fiscal and environmental sustainability of their schools.



Energy CLASS Prize

PHASE 1 WINNERS

Inaugural Winner Cohort Announced May 5th



18 Winners have schools located in a **DAC**



8 Winners are “Large” School Districts with **44,000+ students**



The Winners have a combined Free & Reduced-Price Lunch average of **73%**



8 Winners are in a **Rural Locale**



7 Winners are “Small” School Districts with less than **3,000 students**

**COMING
SOON**

The Renew America's Schools Program is working to provide opportunities for LEAs across the country. In SY23-24, we anticipate . . .

- ❑ **November 16th** – Webinar with a network of stakeholders sharing their successes on “powerful partnerships for school districts”
- ❑ **Winter 2024** – DOE Resources and Tools for Schools
- ❑ **Spring 2024** – anticipated release for second round of funding.

**Sign-up for
updates**

Subscribe for more
information about the
Renew America's School
Program.

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<https://www.energy.gov/scep/renew-americas-schools>
schools@doe.gov



Efficient and Healthy Schools Program



The Program ...

aims to improve energy performance, reduce carbon emissions, and promote a healthy learning environment in schools.

engages K-12 schools, especially those serving low-income student populations and in rural areas.

provides **technical assistance** through direct consultations and **recognition** of exemplary school improvements.



Efficient and Healthy Schools Program – TA & Recognition



Direct Expert Consultation (Technical Assistance)

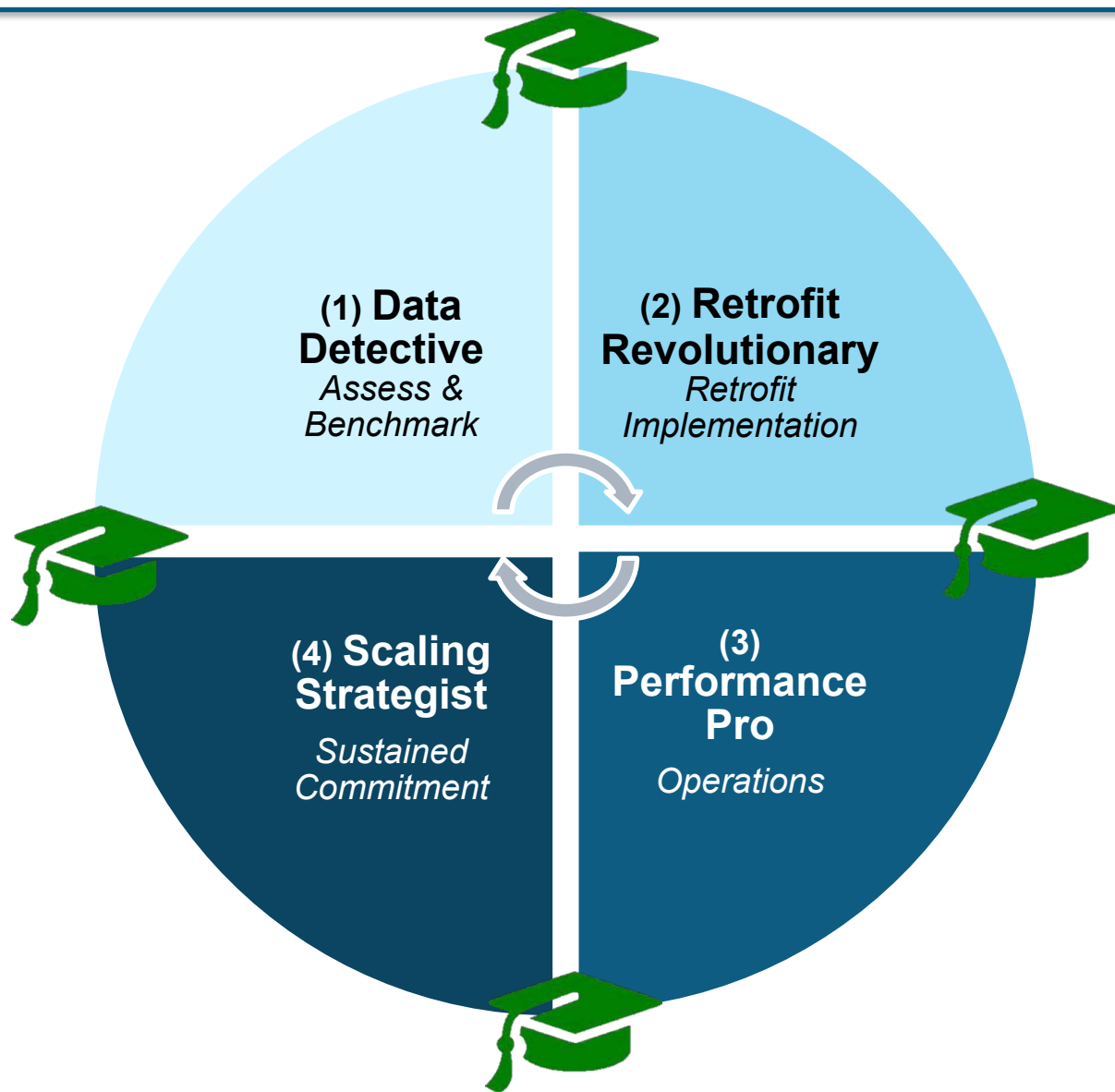
- Recommendations on IAQ monitoring
- Review of design documents on building retrofits
- Proven approaches to improve indoor air quality through ventilation, filtration, and air cleaning
- Assist participants in creating plans to improve energy efficiency and health



Recognition

- Sharing best practices and case studies on school indoor air quality and energy efficiency across political environments, climate zones, and financing structures
- Building community trust in school building health

Efficient and Healthy Schools Program – TA to Recognition Cycle



All Phases Offer

- Tangible TA menu administered all year long by LBNL & NBI
- Peer-learning in cohorts of districts facilitated by NBI
- Mentorship from willing phase or cycle graduates
- Financing & funding development
- Packaged resource sharing by NBI

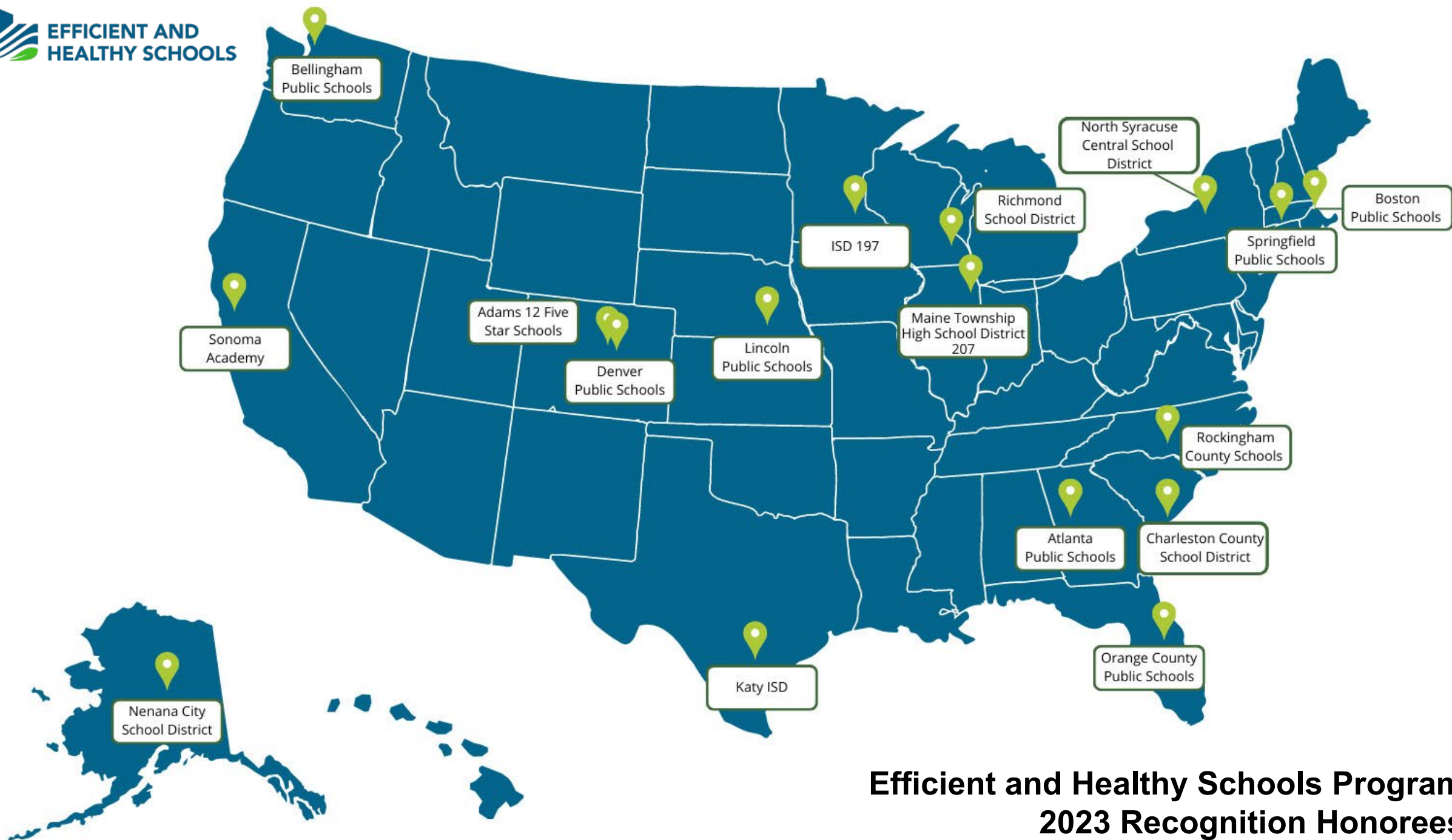
Efficient and Healthy Schools Program – TA to Recognition Cycle

What is Technical Assistance (TA)?

- Technical assistance for schools entails expert guidance and support aimed at providing solution orientated, individualized problem solving, resource sharing, and review and feedback on decision making
- TA also involves deploying specialists with up-to-date knowledge, helping schools create tailored action plans, and facilitating peer-to-peer learning opportunities to build capacity and sustain improvements.

Translating TA to Goal Setting and Achieving:

- Technical assistance is provided through cohort convening and one-on-one engagement. TA identification starts with onboarding and includes sound boarding, workshops, guidance and reviews, as well as resource provision. Topics cover technical, procurement, planning, financing and community engagement.
- Information sharing on IAQ, benchmarking, audits, data, and analysis, as well as the resources to apply the knowledge to districts and facilities through case studies, peer-to-peer learning, finding and utilizing funding resources



**Efficient and Healthy Schools Program
2023 Recognition Honorees**

Better Buildings Initiative Partnership Pathways



- **Reduce energy intensity use by least 20% within 10-years**
 - Conduct an energy efficiency assessment of building portfolio and complete at least one showcase project and one implementation model. Report data annually to track progress
 - Report results by sharing cost-effective approaches for saving energy and performance data that demonstrate their success
-
- **Reduce GHG emissions (scope 1&2) by at least 50% within 10-years and set an energy efficiency target**
 - Develop emission reduction plan with milestone & report data annually to track progress using standardized framework
 - Share information on strategies implemented and participate in at least one working group to discuss barriers, exchange best practices, and identify solutions

Partnership Benefits

	Better Buildings Challenge	Better Climate Challenge
National recognition and media events to spotlight achievements	●	●
Peer-to-peer networking	●	●
Expert-led technical teams	●	●
Option to join Water Savings or Waste Reduction Networks	●	●
Access to Better Buildings Alliance Partners	●	●
Technical assistance on portfolio energy use	●	●
Quarterly meetings with technical account managers in first year of partnership		●
Access to facilitated peer-to-peer working groups		●
Technical assistance on portfolio decarbonization		●

Technical Assistance

Better Buildings Challenge

Resource Sharing

Direct you to resources, case studies, and guidance documents to help answer your questions.

Examples of resources to request:
Case studies, emission reduction measures technical guidance, relevant funding and financing option



Better Climate Challenge

Review & Provide Feedback

Review documents and provide suggestions and perspectives to help guide decision making.

Examples of documents we can review:
Decarbonization plans, energy/decarb audit results, request for proposals, decarb measure specification language



Brainstorm & Identify Solutions

Brainstorm solutions to problems you are encountering and offer advice on next steps.

Examples of topics to discuss: Options for electrification of heating systems, development of a portfolio-level plan for meeting emission reduction targets



Join a Challenge



Join the Better Building Challenge

Partner with DOE to reduce your portfolio's energy use by at least 20% over 10 years



Join the Better Climate Challenge

Partner with DOE to reduce your portfolio's GHG emissions and energy use by at least 50% over 10 years

